

County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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July 17, 2001

To:

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor

Supervisor Gloria Molina

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Supervisor Don Knabe

From:

David E. Janssen

Chief Administrative Officer

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Budget Update

The Assembly finally approved SB 739 (Peace), the State's \$101 billion spending plan for FY 2001-02 on a vote of 54-26. The bill is now awaiting Senate action. The four Republicans who voted for the Budget are: Mike Briggs (Clovis), Richard Dickerson (Redding), Anthony Pescetti (Rancho Cordova) and Dave Kelly (Idyllwild).

While the Budget maintains the Republican-opposed quarter cent sales tax, it now includes \$8 million for farmers in the Klamath River Basin where there is a severe drought, \$6 million for law enforcement in Lodi and Galt, \$4.5 million for rural Sheriff's departments and \$27 million in tax cuts for agricultural communities in the Central Valley. It was this additional funding and tax relief which garnered the four Republican votes needed for the required two-thirds vote.

The Senate will convene upon call of the President pro Tem, Senator John Burton. It is unlikely, however, that it will meet today because of a Senate Elections and Reapportionment Committee hearing on redistricting which is taking place today in Los Angeles. Also yet to be acted upon are the numerous trailer bills which implement the spending plan. It is expected that all Budget actions should be completed and sent to the Governor by Friday, July 20, 2001 when the Legislature is scheduled to begin its monthlong summer break.



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Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

SB 78 2X (Polanco), which originally contained the Governor's agreement with Edison, was amended on July 16, 2001 to drop the transmission line purchase and instead authorize Edison to issue up to \$2.5 billion of market stabilization bonds that would be paid over five years by the utilities largest customers. As Edison's second largest customer, many of the County's largest facilities would be severely impacted by this charge according to the Internal Services Department. Consequently, consistent with Board policy to seek stable electricity prices, we will oppose SB 78 2X unless amended to exempt public agencies like the County which can neither pass on the additional cost nor absorb it in its budget.

Status of Energy Legislation

This afternoon, the Assembly Energy Cost and Availability Committee, chaired by Assembly Member Rod Wright, will hear two competing bills that address the fiscal condition of Southern California Edison: AB 82 2X (Keeley, Hertzberg, Dutra and Goldberg) and AB 83 2X (Wright). Indicative of the fluid nature of Capitol discussions on crafting an Edison "solution", AB 82 2X was introduced on July 12, 2001 and amended on July 16, 2001, while AB 83 2X was introduced as an alternative solution today, July 17, 2001. Committee staff advise that today's hearing is likely to be informational, as leadership and interested parties continue negotiations. Capitol staff advise that the primary difference between the Keeley and Wright bills is that AB 82 2X provides for State acquisition of Edison's transmission lines whereas Wright's bill would not.

We will keep you advised.

DEJ:GK ML:md

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Local 660
All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants